

The Holt County Sentinel.

40TH YEAR.

OREGON, MISSOURI, FRIDAY, MAY 20, 1904.

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Its Foundation and the Story of Its Progress for Nearly Forty Years.

THE HOLT COUNTY SENTINEL. It reached its 39th year of continuous publication last week, and with this issue enters upon its 40th year of publication. The history of the newspapers of Holt county would furnish interesting material for a volume of considerable size. Its story would cover nearly a half century, the first paper to be published in the county having been issued from the office of the Holt County News, Wednesday, July 1, 1857. While the News had nothing in common to do with the establishment of THE SENTINEL, still it marked the advent of the local newspaper in Holt county, and following very closely after its demise came the foundation of THE HOLT COUNTY SENTINEL, which, through the long years, and to this day, holds its position as that of the leading representative paper of the county.

Prefatory to a resume of the history and growth of THE SENTINEL, we will give briefly the history of the News. Its editor was S. H. B. Cundiff, who published the paper until April 8, 1859, when he transferred his interest to Messrs. Cook & Watrous. The subscription rate was \$2.00 per year. On April 29 of the same year, J. W. Biggers became a member of the firm and from his masterhead you read, "Published by Cyrus Cook & Co." On July 1, 1859, Cyrus Cook became sole owner, and on November 11, of that year, A. Watrous, Jr., became the owner. On May 11, 1860, Charles W. Bowman became associated with him in the publication of the paper. November 2, 1860, Watrous & Bowman ceased the publication of the News. November 24, of the same year, A. R. Conklin, of the Forest City Courier, took charge and continued its publication until February, 1861, when Robinson & Biggers took charge. About this time war's black cloud was gathering thick and fast, and in its issue of April 20, 1861, flaming head lines announced that hostilities had commenced. "The attack upon Fort Sumter." "Fort Sumter surrendered." "The President Calls for \$75,000 to Suppress the Rebellion." The cruel war was on in earnest. On May 11th there was an issue of the News, but on the 18th there was none. The situation was considered dangerous. An extra was issued on the 15th, calling upon all loyal citizens to assemble in Oregon, on Saturday, the 18th, for the purpose of military organization, "to defend our homes and families," as announced by the call, which was signed "Many Citizens."

Events crowded themselves in quick succession during the few days next succeeding the publication of this extra. The editorial management was changed and passed into the hands of J. W. Biggers on July 20, 1861, and four days after this, a sudden termination was brought about, when the office and fixtures were seized by Col. E. Peabody, of the 13th Regiment.

In the News of July 17, 1857, the market quotations stated that wheat was scarce at \$1.30 per bushel; flour \$5.50 per 100; corn meal \$1.25 per bushel; shoulders 10 cents; hams 15 cents; whiskey 50 cents per gallon; hogs \$3.50.

There were no railroad time tables published in its columns because we had no railroads, but the St. Louis and Sioux City packet company announced the regular trips of their fine passenger steamers, "D. A. January," "Omaha" and "Minnehaha." They were running

regularly and Forest City was their landing place for this section.

The second paper started in the county was the Monitor, published at Forest City by J. R. Van Natta and A. R. Conklin. Its first issue was in September, 1858. Before the year ended it came out under the name of the Courier, with A. R. Conklin as owner. It was succeeded July 10, 1861, by The Holt County Sentinel, published by Daniel Zook & Co. Only five issues appeared when it ceased publication. August 14, 1863, it appeared again with continuous number and Daniel Zook & Co as publishers. The company was a printer named Bodenhamer. On October 30, 1863, it ceased publication.

THE HOLT COUNTY SENTINEL, the publication of today, was issued Friday, June 30, 1865. The editor was Charles W. Bowman, who is yet living, and we believe is a clerk in the War Department at Washington.

The first issue of this paper contained an official directory of the county. Hon. B. F. Loan was member of Congress from this 4th district. Wm. Herrin was circuit judge and I. C. Parker, who after wards was U. S. district judge of the Arkansas district, was circuit attorney. All of these gentlemen are now dead. A. G. Hollister was representative; S. N. Rulley, circuit clerk; William Kaucher, sheriff; W. B. Davis, county clerk; Daniel Zook, county attorney; Daniel David, treasurer; S. C. Collins, surveyor, and A. J. Evans, Geo. McIntyre and Samuel Thompson, county judges. All of these are dead, excepting Rulley and Davis. At the close of the first year of publication, the troublous war was a thing of the past and the white wings of peace were spread over our beloved country. The resources of the great northwest were in process of development and immigration's steady tide had set in earnestly. The St. Joseph and Council Bluffs railroad was being built, and this whole country was promised connection by rail with the outside world in a short time. Verily, the air of the country was that of prosperity. At this time the population of the county was 7,000, while to-day it has 17,083. The city of Oregon had then 600 people within its corporate limits, and to day it has 1,200. In 1860 there were 202 votes cast for Lincoln, while all others received 972 votes—a total of 1,174. The voting population is now 3,464; 1,981 were cast for the party of Lincoln at the last general election and 1,412 for the Democracy. The county's total taxable wealth was \$1,166,665, while now it is \$7,000,000. The total taxable wealth of the state in 1867 was \$454,552, while in 1902 it had grown to \$1,167,338.

The cities of Craig, Bigelow and Corning did not come into existence until three years after the establishing of this paper. Forbes was not born until THE SENTINEL was four years old and Forest City was eight years of age at the time the first issue made its appearance. The first sale of town lots of Mound City occurred eight years prior to the appearance of THE SENTINEL. The county was divided into three townships at the time, these were Clay, created in 1854; Lewis and Nodaway in 1841. There was not a bank in the county at the time, but in the fall of 1866 a bank was opened for business in Oregon, while now there are 11. As time passed the modest little sheet—a six column folio—grew in impor-

tance and influence, gathering slowly but surely, and solidly laying the foundation for the paper, which goes into so many homes to-day—where it is welcomed as the old time friend that it is—and in which it would be sadly missed should it from any reason fail to make its regular appearance. It goes smilingly to these hundreds of homes. It is studiously read there. And it is carefully treasured.

A. N. Rulley succeeded Mr. Bowman in 1869, assuming control February 12th of that year. In July of that year, Mr. Rulley disposed of the paper to Adam Klippel, who continued in charge until the fall of 1876, when Davenport & Dobyns took charge. During the spring of 1881, the entire Missouri valley suffered severely from a devastating flood. Every means of transportation was shut off and the supply of print paper ran out. Pending the reopening of traffic, rather than miss or delay an issue, the publishers made a tour of the city and gathered up all the Manila wrapping paper to be had. Upon this paper one issue was printed. The blockade was raised in time for the next issue, but the Manila sheet had circulation of the entire list, and it is likely many copies of this have been preserved by subscribers, as a memento of the great freshet of April, 1881.

In the spring of 1881, Mr. Davenport retired from the paper and it passed into the ownership of D. P. Dobyns and W. F. Waller. In December of that year, Mr. Waller retired, and D. P. Dobyns had full charge. On August 10th, 1883, the paper became the property of the present proprietors, D. P. Dobyns and Tom Curry, who have continuously had charge of its publication since that date, which is now nearly 21 years—and 28 years of continued service on the paper by the senior. Among those who learned the "cases" upon



CHARLES W. BOWMAN.

this paper, and some completing the trade in THE SENTINEL office are the following—Some of these are still in the newspaper business in some department, while others have sought other fields; and some have answered their last call and had their last take and "thirty" was called to them:

Rudolph Schlotzhauer, now of Kansas City.
Wm. Brodbeck, farmer in Southern Kansas.
John C. Philbrick, druggist, St. Joseph.
C. N. Dobyns, late proprietor of the

Craig Leader.

Will M. Maupin, of the Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.

Ed. Foster, deceased.

J. M. Crowley, colored, now deceased. Chas. Marsh, still with us and our foreman, beginning his service as an apprentice in 1878, and with the exception perhaps of half a dozen years, has been continuously in the service of this paper.

Elwood McDougal, now deputy city clerk, of St. Joseph.

Charles Peret, of this city.

Richard and Edgar Klippel, of Portland, Oregon.

Ira Murphy, who is now some where in the east.

L. P. Hill, who a few years ago was on the staff of the Kansas City Journal.

Richard Markland, of the Oregonian, Portland, Oregon.

Frank Hart, machine department of

the success and advancement to a greater or lesser degree, of every part of our county—The development of every acre of bottom land in Holt county that it may bring forth "much fruit" means the advancement, in value of every other acre of land in Holt county.

It has lived to chronicle the demise of over a dozen newspaper ventures in the county. It has always led in circulation, and to-day has several hundred in excess of any other paper published in the county.

But it is not so much the political consistency or financial success of the paper that induces us to thus speak of its publishers, as the fact that they have aimed to make it the leading local newspaper of our county—to make it an ideal country newspaper, and we believe it not only enjoys this reputation at home, but throughout the entire state. It has aimed to cater to the tastes of all

Current Comment.

"The Republican party sold the railroads of the state in 1871 for \$5,000,000 that were worth \$11,000,000 and received \$192,000 in bribes for it."—J. W. Folk in his late speech at Lebanon. Who told Mr. Folk so? From whence did he get his information? He was two years of age at the time. What proportion of the \$192,000 in bribes was parceled out to Hon. Jas. S. Rollins, Judge J. F. Ryland, N. J. Colman, John Doniphan, J. G. Woerner, all prominent Democrats, all of whom were members of the legislature and voted for this "railroad steal." Surely, Mr. Folk has not read the legislative proceedings of that time; if he would but do so, he would learn that every Democrat in the House and every senator but one voted in favor of the sale; and every negative vote but this one was Republican. The value of the Missouri railroads at that time in their dilapidated condition in which the war had left them, was a subject of wide and honest difference of opinion. Passenger trains were few, and accommodations limited. Not a yard of steel rail was upon the entire railroad trackage of the state, nor was there a single iron or steel bridge. The gauge of the Missouri Pacific was out of line with all other connecting roads. It had the old 56 foot gauge, and hence all its freight had to be transferred at both ends, and the purchasers had to consider a change not only of track but all its rolling stock to 48 gauge—this change was estimated at \$930,000. The house of representatives thought \$6,000,000 as a fair price. The second legislative report thought \$5,000,000 a fair value, while the senate believed \$4,500,000 sufficient. The representative business men of the state without distinction of party, urged the sale of all the roads, at any price. Their cry was "get the state out of the railroad business, and stop the drain from the treasury for payment on account of defaulted interest." After a long and tiresome consideration the differences between the two legislative branches were compromised and the road sold at public vendue to the highest bidder. The purchasers afterward were unable to make their investment profitable and they were sold out under a mortgage a few years later. The bills authorizing the sales of these railroads were not a party measure at all, and Democrats and Republicans alike voted for the sale. The roads at the time of sale were bankrupt. The law pledged the credit of the State, a law passed by a Democratic legislature, before there was any Republican party in existence in Missouri, for the payment of the bonds and interest, and this law provided for the sale of the roads upon their defaulting in payment of interest. The law was carried out and the roads sold. The Democratic spellbinders have asserted that they did not bring as much money as they should. Possibly they were sold for less than their real value, but this, however, is a fact: They brought at a forced sale about as much per mile 33 years ago as they are assessed at per mile today by a Democratic state board of equalization, who under their oath of office swear the cash value is \$12,500 per mile—their sale price 33 years ago was \$10,000 per mile. The railway systems of the state are bonded for \$400,000,000, yet in 1902 they were assessed at only \$86,000,000. Mr. Folk should explain why the railways were worth so much 33 years ago under Republican rule, and worth so little today under Democratic rule. It seems to us that Mr. Folk could well and profitably be in better business—at his home in St. Louis for instance attending to his official duties, or take a term in some reputable law school and learn how to prepare an indictment with the view of making one boodle charge out of twenty stick. He might explain why he knowingly retains an office which he obtained through fraudulent votes. Why he is taking from the treasury a salary larger than that prescribed by law. He might use a little time in explaining why he never discovered the frauds in St. Louis elections and primaries until his own interests were at stake? He might explain why he did not have Mr. Campbell as a witness in the Butler trial at Fulton, and why the \$47,000 checks were not there in evidence. It isn't at all necessary for Mr. Folk to go back 30, 20 or even 15 years; a non-partisan grand jury has told the people of corruption in the Democratic state government. A united clergy now holds the Democratic state government responsible for the election, police and excise laws that have bred boodling and official corruption, yet under Mr. Folk's management, not one of the corruptors or criminals is in the penitentiary today.

—We are well acquainted with a man who is a good husband, but his liver does not always work and he gets mad and slams the doors and stamps around. One day while in one of these moods his wife suggested to him that he shake the rug, and if he went to slam anything for him to go out and slam into the wood pile with an ax.

classes of intelligent readers, without pondering to the prejudice—so clean and free from sensationalism, slush and trash that any child may peruse its columns without fear of contamination. This high toned character has, we think, made it a reputation that cannot be questioned.

We enter upon the new year with no promise for the future. Our actions shall be governed by coming events. Our fondest hope is to see our adopted city and county the best in the state, and to that end THE SENTINEL and its proprietors will labor and hope.

Wedded Twenty-Five Years.

Tuesday, May 13, 1879, a very happy and joyous event occurred at the Christian church in this city, in the presence of a large number of invited guests—Rev. Wm. A. Gardner, who is now dead, spoke the words that united in marriage T. C. Dungan and Miss Fannie Soper. The ceremony occurred at 10 a. m. The bride at the time was one of the teachers in our school. She wore on the occasion a travelling suit of fawn colored cashmere with silk and fringe trimmings, hat and gloves to match. Jacob M. Ford, now of St. Joseph, and Miss Nettie Gardner, of San Francisco, Cal., were the attendants and are both living. Misses Nettie and Jennie Gardner, Emma Dibble, now Mrs. James Martin, of this city, Sam. Nesbet, now a minister of the Christian church in California; John Dillon, a merchant in Kansas, and Fred Markland, dentist of this city, were members of Miss Soper's class at the time, and they decorated the church for the occasion. W. A. Graham, merchant of St. Joseph, and T. L. Price, merchant of this city, were the ushers, and Miss Stella Goslin, now Mrs. Stella Cowan, of Georgia, presided at the organ. But two deaths have occurred in the ranks of those who participated in this happy event, and these were in the same family—Rev. Gardner and sister, Jennie. On Friday last, May 13, 1904, it was house cleaning time at the Dungan home, which interfered with a number of their old time friends calling upon them, and in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary they sent to Mr. and Mrs. Dungan, a handsome silver token of their regard and esteem, trusting that they as the gift bearers, may be able to remember them on their golden anniversary; that in that time each of their interesting daughters may be happily situated with as charming a family about them as has come to bless Mr. and Mrs. Dungan.

—We have received an invitation to be present at the State University commencement exercises, to be held in Columbia during the week ending June 1st. The invitation comes through the kindness of Miss Edith Dungan, who is among the list of graduates this year. We regret that we cannot be present, and especially at the "reception and dance" of the graduating class, that we might be honored with a fascinating "two-step" with this pleasing young lady—we wonder what our people would think of a "reception and dance" by the graduating class of the Oregon High school, class of 1904, oh, horrors!



the St. Joseph News.

George Willard, now deceased.

Will Zook, who was assistant postmaster here 1893-97, now deceased.

George and Nelson Bowman, now deceased.

Daniel Simero, deceased.

Ed. B. and Leigh B. Dobyns, both of whom are now telegraphers, the former at Fort Madison, Iowa, and the latter at Cheyenne, Wyo.

Charley and Frank Harris, colored; the former is now railroading, while the latter is now dead.

Chris Foster, of this city, who is now in the employ of the Dan Martin telephone company.

Whit Maupin, who is still with us.

Herbert Caskey, now of this city.

The latest addition to our force is Willie Curry, son of the junior proprietor, who can to day set as much type and set it as free from errors, as any one of our force. He graduated from our High school in this year's class.

The senior of this paper began his service in the newspaper field in St. Louis on the old Democrat and Missouri Republican prior to the Civil war, while the junior began his career on the Missouri Valley Times, which was established here in 1874 by Messrs. Kaucher & Hasseus; both of the latter are now dead.

This history brings us down to day to—volume 40, No. 1, of THE HOLT COUNTY SENTINEL, and it goes forth into the homes of its nearly 2,000 subscribers. And it is if this time we wish to speak. The observant reader will glance be-



CHARLES W. BOWMAN.